We live in a time of unprecedented technological creation, invention and discovery. As a result, recent years have seen a flurry of Congressional action related to intellectual property legislation, as well as computer, communications and biomedical technology regulation and legislation. At Mason Law, students have the opportunity to specialize in the regulation and legislation surrounding developing technologies.

In our Intellectual Property Concentration or our Patent Track, students learn how individuals obtain, license and litigate intellectual property. In our Communications Law Concentration, students study the laws and regulations that control the means and mechanisms of communication. In our Technology Law Concentration, students study the intersection of technology, intellectual property and business law. Our location—near the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Copyright Office, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Court of Claims, and of course, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees—affords students a first-hand look at the regulatory and legislative processes governing technology.

Start pursuing your career options early in your legal education to maximize your opportunities. The Office of Career, Academic and Alumni Services (CAAS) is here to help you plot a course. To assist students in finding employment, CAAS meets with students individually and helps them prepare cover letters and resumes. CAAS hosts employer recruiting programs in the fall and spring, pays registration fees for job fairs and networking events throughout the country, and hosts numerous informational and networking events at the law school. In recent semesters, sessions related to Intellectual Property, Communications, or Technology Law have included:

- Pathways to the Federal Government: PAID Internship Program Information Session
- Demystifying Federal Government Hiring
- Security Clearance Denied: The Most Common Pitfalls for Security Clearance Applications
- Public Services Career Fair Table Talk and Interview Skills Session
- Day in the Life: JDs in Sports Law; Careers in Communications Law
- Public Services Career Fair Table Talk and Interview Skills Session
- Career Paths in IP: In-house, Government, Academia, & Private Practice
- Interested in the Internet, Broadcasting or Communications Law?
- Careers in Intellectual Property Law

Practical Experience and Extracurricular Activities

Students interested in Intellectual Property, Communications, or Technology Law enhance their marketability by developing practical experience outside of the classroom. Year-round at Mason, students build skills in the field with Mason’s in-house programs and off-site public and private sector employers. In-house, Mason offers a Legal Clinic—Practical Preparation of GMU Patent Applications and a Legal Practicum—Regulatory Comments. Off-site, students can work for pay or earn credit with public and private sector employers in Intellectual Property, Communications, or Technology Law while working under the supervision of a lawyer. In recent semesters, students have interned for numerous state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Communications Commission, and the International Trade Commission. Others have worked for nonprofit and for-profit organizations like the Broadcasting Board of Governors, Facebook, Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon. In the private sector, students have pursued their interests with large and small firms like Finnegan, Oblon Spivak, Wiley Rein LLP; Cooley LLP; Wilson Sonsini, and Sterne Kessler.

Field work, coupled with thoughtful course selections and savvy networking, has been critical to Mason students’ success in landing long-term positions with employers in Intellectual Property, Communications, or Technology Law.

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Curricular Offerings
Intellectual Property, Communications or Technology Law


In order to complete the Communications Law Concentration, students must take the following courses: Communications Law, Administrative Law, Perspectives on Regulation, and Intellectual Property Law OR Patent Law I & II OR Copyright Law. Additionally, students must complete two elective courses from the following selections OR one elective and one supervised externship: Advanced Constitutional Law: First Amendment; Regulated Industries; Business Associations; Internet and Online Law; Telecom and the Internet: Strategy and Policy; Emerging Law of Internet Privacy; Intellectual Property Law of the Internet; Patent Law; Antitrust; and Broadband, Net Neutrality & The Future.

For the Technology Law Concentration, students must complete the following courses: Business Associations, Conflicts of Laws, Securities Law and Regulation, Intellectual Property Law, and Legal and Economic Theory of Intellectual Property. Additionally, students must complete 8 credit hours of Technology Law electives from the following list: Broadband, Net Neutrality & The Future; Communications Law; Emerging Law of Internet Privacy; Internet and Online Law; National Security Law; Privacy and Information Security; Regulation of Food & Drugs; Technology, Terrorism & National Security Law; and Telecom & Internet: Strategy & Policy. Finally, students must complete 6 credit hours of Business Law electives (Antitrust; Commercial Paper; Corporate Tax; International Commercial Transactions; Advanced Securities: Law and Economics of Investment Management, Unfair Trade Practices; Unincorporated Businesses) OR 6 hours of Intellectual Property Law electives (Copyright Law, International Intellectual Property and Policy, Patent Law I, Patent Law II, Trademark Law, Unfair Trade Practices).

Featured Faculty Members
Professor Adam Mossoff

Professor Adam Mossoff teaches and writes in the areas of property and intellectual property law. His research focuses on the intersection between intellectual property law and property theory, with a special emphasis on natural rights philosophy and its role in the intellectual history of patent law. He has published numerous articles on topics in patent law, property law, legal history and legal philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, Cornell Law Review, and Social Philosophy & Policy, among other journals. He teaches a range of courses, including Patent Law, Property, Trade Secrets, Cyberlaw, Jurisprudence, Property Theory, and Estates and Trusts.

Professor Mossoff graduated with honors from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was a research assistant to Richard A. Epstein and held the Bradley Governance Fellowship. Following law school, he was a John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Visiting Lecturer at Northwestern University School of Law. He clerked for the Honorable Jacques L. Wiener Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He holds an MA in philosophy, specializing in legal and political philosophy, from Columbia University and a BA with High Distinction and High Honors in philosophy from the University of Michigan.

Professor Mossoff is Co-Director of Academic Programs and a Senior Scholar at the Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property at Mason Law.

Professor Thomas Hazlett

Professor Thomas Hazlett joined the George Mason University faculty in Fall 2005. In addition to his duties as a professor, Hazlett directs the Information Economy Project at the National Center for Technology and Law.

Professor Hazlett is an internationally recognized expert on telecommunications policy. He has published widely in economics journals, law reviews, and popular periodicals, and he is currently a columnist for the Financial Times’ New Technology Policy Forum. He frequently provides expert testimony to the courts, government agencies, and the U.S. Congress and has served as a consultant to public and private organizations throughout the world.

Professor Hazlett received his PhD in Economics from UCLA and has held faculty positions at the University of California, Davis; Columbia University; and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1991-92, he served as Chief Economist of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

Professor Christopher Newman

Professor Christopher Newman graduated magna cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School in 1999, where he served as book review editor for the Michigan Law Review and received Michigan’s highest law school award, the Henry M. Bates Memorial Scholarship. He also holds a BA in classical liberal arts awarded by St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland.

Following law school, Professor Newman was a clerk for the Honorable Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, with whom he co-published What’s So Fair About Fair Use? From 2000-07, he was a litigation associate with Irell & Manella LLP in Los Angeles, where he represented clients in disputes involving contracts, business torts, intellectual property, corporate and securities litigation, and appellate matters, as well as pro bono family and criminal law matters. Professor Newman left practice at the beginning of 2007 to serve an Olin/Scarbrough Fellowship in Law at the UCLA School of Law, where he focused on his research and writing in the areas of property theory and intellectual property. From January 2008 until his arrival at Mason Law, he served as a research fellow of UCLA’s Intellectual Property Project.